

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A silicon carbide-based catalytic body comprising:

a porous body of given shape comprising a first bonded structure formed by bonding a large number of silicon carbide particles as an aggregate to each other in a state that a large number of fine pores are present; and

a catalyst containing an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal, loaded on the porous body,

wherein the catalyst is loaded via a crystalline coating film comprising an oxide and formed on at least part of the surfaces of the silicon carbide particles forming the first bonded structure.

10. (New) A silicon carbide-based catalytic body comprising:

a porous body of given shape comprising a second bonded structure formed by bonding a large number of silicon carbide particles as an aggregate and metallic silicon as a binder in a state that a large number of fine pores are present; and

a catalyst containing an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal, loaded on the porous body,

wherein the catalyst is loaded via a crystalline coating film comprising an oxide and formed on at least part of the surfaces of the silicon carbide particles and/or the metallic silicon, forming the second bonded structure.

11. (New) A silicon carbide-based catalytic body according to Claim 9, wherein the crystalline coating film contains SiO_2 .
12. (New) A silicon carbide-based catalytic body according to Claim 10, wherein the crystalline coating film contains SiO_2 .
13. (New) A silicon carbide-based catalytic body according to Claim 11, wherein the crystalline coating film comprises cristobalite and/or mullite.
14. (New) A silicon carbide-based catalytic body according to Claim 12, wherein the crystalline coating film comprises cristobalite and/or mullite.
15. (New) A silicon carbide-based catalytic body according to Claim 9, wherein the given shape of the porous body is a honeycomb shape.
16. (New) A silicon carbide-based catalytic body according to Claim 10, wherein the given shape of the porous body is a honeycomb shape.
17. (New) A process for producing a silicon carbide-based catalytic body, the process comprising:
 - forming a raw material mixture containing silicon carbide particles and metallic silicon into a formed body of a given shape;
 - calcinating and firing the formed body;
 - heat treating the formed body in an oxygen-containing atmosphere; and then
 - loading, on the formed body, a catalyst containing an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal,
 - to obtain a catalytic body comprising:
 - a porous body comprising a second bonded structure formed by bonding a large number of the silicon carbide particles and the metallic silicon in a state that a large number of fine pores are present; and
 - the catalyst loaded on the porous body via a crystalline coating film comprising an

oxide and formed on at least part of the surfaces of the silicon carbide particles and/or the metallic silicon, forming the second bonded structure.

18. (New) A process for producing a silicon carbide-based catalytic body according to Claim 17, wherein the heat treatment is conducted at a temperature of 800 to 1,400°C.

19. (New) A process for producing a silicon carbide-based catalytic body according to Claim 17, wherein the given shape is a honeycomb shape.